



## **Arlington Disability Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

**Attendees:** Commissioners- Paul Raia, Cynthia DeAngelis, Grace Carpenter, Michael Rademacher, Paul Parravano, Kerrie Fallon, Liza Molina, Karen Mathiasen

**Guests:** Jillian Harvey- DEI Director; Margaret Credle Thomas- APS DEI Director  
Jenni Acosta-community member, Sarah Forster-community member, Janice Cagan-Teuber- Volunteer; Ellen Leigh- Volunteer

Meeting called to order by Parravano at 4:03 PM

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (Paul P, Grace, Paul R, 15 min)
  - a. Role Call and introductions of roles of new co-chairs
  - b. Goals of meetings: efficiency, stick to times listed on agendas, remember to mute if not talking, let's work together to be respectful

- c. Carpenter- role is trying to put agenda together and make sure everything is organized and flowing from meeting to meeting (the to-dos); Raia- chief wrangler to keep working groups focused on their tasks
- 2. Approve September Meeting Minutes (Paul P, 5 min)
  - a. DeAngelis moves to accept and Fallon seconds, unanimously approved.
- 3. New School District DEI Director Introduction(Margaret Credle Thomas, 10 min)
  - a. Background- in APS for 8 years as METCO Director, BA Social Work, currently getting doctorate at BC, started DEI role on 8/23/21
  - b. First steps are to meet commissions, and listening sessions with community members and stakeholders; conduct a district wide Equity Audit- to assess needs of APS before setting goals; early 2022 establish affinity groups for students and adults
  - c. Launched DEI Matters: Conversation with Margaret Credle Thomas- ACMi YouTube show with guests to talk about DEI issues
  - d. Parravano asked how to include disabilities in the DEI conversation- part of the equity audit- who do we not have at the table, who is not being served?
  - e. Carpenter asked to expand on equity audit- Different vendors are being looked at to take a larger look at policies, procedures, strengths, what can we restructure and implement- to ensure that all students have access at Arlington Public Schools; get recommendations and strategic plan
  - f. DeAngelis background in special education, can be liaison to group, Harvey will connect with Thomas.
- 4. Emergency Preparedness/ Traffic Signals (Ellen, 25 min)
  - a. Traffic Signals
    - i. Patrick Baxter, Cambridge is available to come to 12/15 meeting but needs to be done by 5, and Kim Charleston is also available on that date; we can get their perspectives on issues; Rachel Stark- Arlington Pedestrian Advocate Group- would like to pull her in
    - ii. Consensus of what is the latest technology, data, what works and increases safety; Can invite rep from APD and DPW- Wayne Chouinard
    - iii. December 15, 4pm meeting the guests will be invited. Commission should generate some questions to have the guests focus on.
  - b. Emergency Preparedness-MOD Evan George does trainings
    - i. Evan can do virtual, in person or hybrid trainings, starting in April and onward, training is about an hour
    - ii. There is no maximum capacity to participants, except backpacks is 48; training is focused on people with disabilities
    - iii. We can look at dates, can be on commission meeting date or other; need to determine if we want in person or virtual
    - iv. Joint collaboration possibly with COA, APD, AFD- Ellen will check on that if it is appropriate

- 5. Updates (30 min)
  - a. Understanding Our Differences/ Youth Programming (Cynthia & Paul R, 5 min)
    - i. Meeting was held, program will develop proposal that will come to commission for funding, and to Superintendent of schools to send to principals to implement in their schools
    - ii. Commission would assist with funding the proposal, to help provide for some of the materials
  - b. Remote Participation Committee (Janice, 5 min)
    - i. Very short timeline, need to provide a full report by January. The group is meeting roughly every two weeks. Right now, surveying various commissions and organizations in town, to determine how they would like to work in a hybrid meeting; participation of community members, etc. in process of gather data to write up report to help transition from remote to hybrid
    - ii. Consensus is that folks don't want to stop meeting remotely, there is more participation with remote option. Will continue to send the approved minutes of the meetings
  - c. Election Modernization Committee/ Reprecincting (Paul P, Jill, 5 min)
    - i. Reprecincting is not done yet, almost- every 10 years boundary lines should be reassessed based on new data; Reprecincting Working Group with League of Women Voters and Election Modernization provided community feedback and forum to educate
    - ii. Select Board turned down 16 precinct option; next is to vote on least change 21 precinct map or equity focused 21 precinct map produced by working group
    - iii. Will be finalized over next few weeks,
  - d. High School Building Committee (Paul R) (2 min)
    - i. All interiors are ordered and in process of being installed; difficulty in getting supplies which is holding things up
  - e. DEI & Budget Update (Jill & Paul R, 5 min)
    - i. Budget- \$24,500
      - 1. Understanding our Differences proposal, will have an idea of cost and be ready for November
      - 2. Revisit the Transition Plan to see where we can support funding, set as a priority for November meeting; try to find priority sheet
    - ii. On Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12-2pm, in person at Town Hall Matthew Shephard Training for APD has a portion of training open to community members, due to Covid there is a capacity. Harvey will send email and ask those interested to RSVP, there are 4 spots available to the commission
  - f. Arlington Construction (Mike R, 3 min)
    - i. Sidewalk work on Medford Street
    - ii. Striping work at Mass Ave & Appleton, long discussion about temporary measure that were finalized at last SB meeting

- iii. Lexington Hotel- redevelopment board granted special permit for project, and it was not appealed; they haven't applied for building permit yet, but it is expected
    - iv. 124 multifamily right behind Mirak, preliminary permit approvals granted; 25% affordable
  - g. Open Space & Recreation (Grace, 5 min)
    - i. Commission was supposed to give feedback, and individually do the survey, feedback and survey have closed; there is a meeting/forum on 11/16 that folks can participate in to give feedback
    - ii. Recreation Playground Chart- ADA accessibility put together by Joe Connelly from parks, he was hoping to make it easier for community members to use as a resource; looking for volunteers to go to playgrounds and offer feedback on the plans
    - iii. We need a standard for volunteers to rate, what "accessible" means
    - iv. The res path is not completely done, but the Lexington side is fantastic so something to look forward to.
- 6. Priorities for next meeting's agenda (Paul P, 5 min)
  - a. Send priorities for next meeting to Grace by , as we will put together the agenda
- 7. Public Comment period (5 min)
  - a. No comment

Mike moves to adjourn, Raia seconds, all in favor. Meeting adjourns at 6:00pm

Commission members not able to attend please email [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us) prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.